

NOTES

STREETER COLLECTION ACQUIRED

Dr. E. C. Streeter of Boston sold his valuable collection of medical incunabula and classics to a well-known book dealer in New York about the end of the year 1927. The knowledge of this sale came to the attention of some of the members of the Library staff and the Council in a few days, and excited a great deal of comment and interest.

During the month of February the books were brought to New York and were examined by the President of the Academy, the Librarian, and others who were interested in this unusual type of medical publication.

At the February meeting of the Council a resolution was adopted which expressed the Council's earnest desire to obtain these books for the Academy. They are being held for the Academy at the price of \$185,000.

Dr. Rosenbach, the dealer in question, has made a number of additions of unusual medical classics and the entire Collection comprises about 1700 volumes. Among them are the following important specimens:

1. Eighty-three medical incunabula, or books printed before 1501. Of some of these books only a very few copies are known and in one instance the book is unique or, in other words, until now no other copy has been recorded.
2. A beautiful illuminated Guy de Chauliac (1300-1368) manuscript in English which is said to have been made for John of Gaunt. It dates from the last quarter of the XIVth century and Quaritch, the well-known London bookseller, whose hands it passed through, described it as "one of the finest English medical manuscripts in existence." It is almost certain this MS. is alone worth twenty-five thousand dollars.
3. The works of the early anatomists. One of these is that of Berengarius who is said to have been the first to make anatomical plates from nature.
4. The rare *Epitome* of Vesalius which was issued before the *De fabrica humani corporis* of which latter there are 1st (1543),

2nd, and later editions. Two of the lesser, and very scarce, works of Vesalius are present.

5. An exceedingly valuable collection of the works of Ambroise Paré including many in the vernacular.
6. Probably the best collection of the earliest medical works printed in French to be found outside of France and the British Museum; those printed by Etienne Dolet about 1540 being extremely valuable and interesting.
7. A group of the first books written upon syphilis, which are very rare.
8. A number of English books printed in the XVIth century in Gothic type. These constitute some of the earliest medical works printed in England, the most important being *A Booke against Sweating Sickness*, London, 1552, by John Caius; the books on urines; works of Lowe, Gale, Vicary; and English editions of the *Regiment of Health* of the School of Salerno.
9. Examples of the works of great men in medicine in various editions too numerous to mention: Aristotle, Hippocrates, Galen, Celsus, Avicenna, Ketham, John de Vigo, Fuchs, Gerarde, Malpighi, Harvey, Redi, Sydenham, Borelli, Morton, Morgagni, Withering, Jenner, *et al.*

It must be evident to the Fellows of the Academy that an addition of this nature to the Library adds very materially to the cultural value of the Academy's collection and offers a rare opportunity to the occasional students of the history of medicine to find the original sources of ideas in medicine. The collection also provides an opportunity to students to see different types of printing, paper and binding, which are of historical and literary interest.

The Council and Library Committee appreciate that the purchase of such a collection is a luxury which cannot be afforded by the Library, but felt that there were amongst the Fellows of the Academy a sufficient number of men who were interested who would be able to secure from Foundations or wealthy individuals gifts in sufficient amounts to purchase the collection. The Council also felt that it would be difficult to appeal to wealthy individuals unless the Fellows of the Academy had taken a definite

interest in subscribing themselves. It is gratifying to know therefore, that all the members of the Trustees, the Council, the Library Committee and every member of the Library staff have contributed toward this fund, and this sum added to a number of important subscriptions now amounts to a total of \$10,567 from Fellows and the balance has been subscribed by friends of the Academy.

MEDICAL INFORMATION BUREAU

At its meeting on April 25, the Council approved of the recommendation of the Committee on Medical Education that a medical information bureau be established with headquarters at the Academy and that a sub-committee of three be appointed to coöperate with the Comitia Minora of the County Medical Society in directing the activities of this bureau.

TRUSTEES AND COUNCIL

Following are some of the actions taken by the Trustees and the Council at the meetings held on March 28:

The Trustees authorized the use of the Reception Room for private dinners arranged by Fellows of the Academy at a charge of \$10. The regular charge for this room for outside societies is \$20. When used by Academy Sections or Committees, there is no charge therefor.

The Council authorized the President to appoint a Committee on International Relations, its exact duties to be defined later.

The Council accepted the generous offer made by Dr. Samuel McCullagh to present to the Academy a medal and sufficient funds to endow it, this medal to be known as the "Medal of The New York Academy of Medicine" and to be awarded for unusual and meritorious contributions to